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**POLLOCK PINES MAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES
Defendant Also Faces Kidnaping Charges El Dorado County**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, and El Dorado County District Attorney Gary Lacy announced today the return of a federal indictment involving allegations of the trafficking and possession of child pornography. It is alleged in two counts that MICHAEL CONAN PITTS, 27, of Pollock Pines, California, knowingly possessed images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, in the Fall of 2002, and again in October of last year. Pitts was previously charged by the El Dorado County District Attorney with misdemeanor charges of possessing child pornography stemming from an investigation conducted by local authorities in the Fall of 2002. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laurel D. White, the local pornography charges will be dismissed in lieu of the federal prosecution.

Pitts faces a maximum penalty of 5 years for the possession of child pornography charge relating to his alleged possession in 2002, and a maximum 10-year term of imprisonment for the alleged possession in 2003. The law changing the maximum penalty for possessing child pornography took affect on April 31, 2003.

In addition to the federal child pornography charges, Pitts also faces one count of kidnaping, filed last year by the El Dorado County District Attorney's office. The kidnaping charge relates to allegations Pitts abducted a 9-year old Pollack Pines girl last October. The girl was able to free herself and escaped.

Pitts faces a possible 11-year maximum sentence if convicted of the kidnaping.

The charges pending against Pitts are only allegations, and he is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was the product of a joint investigation by the FBI, El Dorado County Sheriff's, Department, and the El Dorado County District Attorney's office.

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